

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method to increase the hot carcass weight of a meat-producing animal, comprising the steps of:

providing a feed consisting of 73.5 weight percent dried citrus pulp, 21.5 weight percent Vitamin C, and 5 weight percent molasses;

orally administering ~~Vitamin C~~ said feed one time to said animal between about 2 and  
about 18 16 hours prior to harvest;

harvesting said animal; and

preparing a hot carcass from said harvested animal.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a phosphorylated ascorbic acid.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said phosphorylated ascorbic acid is selected from the group consisting of mono-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, di-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tri-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tetra-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, and mixtures thereof.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a sulfate ester of ascorbic acid.

5. Canceled.

6. Canceled.

7. (currently amended) A method to increase the pH of a meat product obtained from a meat-producing animal, comprising the steps of:

providing a feed consisting of 73.5 weight percent dried citrus pulp, 21.5 weight percent Vitamin C, and 5 weight percent molasses;

orally administering ~~Vitamin C~~ said feed one time to said animal ~~between about 2 and about 18~~ 16 hours prior to harvest;

harvesting said animal; and

preparing said meat product from said harvested animal.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a phosphorylated ascorbic acid.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said phosphorylated ascorbic acid is selected from the group consisting of mono-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, di-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tri-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tetra-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, and mixtures thereof.

10. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a sulfate ester of ascorbic acid.

11. Canceled.

12. Canceled.

13. (currently amended) A method to increase the water content of a meat product obtained from a meat-producing animal, comprising the steps of:

providing a feed consisting of 73.5 weight percent dried citrus pulp, 21.5 weight percent Vitamin C, and 5 weight percent molasses;

orally administering ~~Vitamin C~~ said feed one time to said animal ~~between about 2 and~~  
~~about 18~~ 16 hours prior to harvest;

harvesting said animal; and

preparing said meat product from said harvested animal.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a phosphorylated ascorbic acid.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein said phosphorylated ascorbic acid is selected from the group consisting of mono-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, di-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tri-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tetra-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, and mixtures thereof.

16. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a sulfate ester of ascorbic acid.

17. Canceled.

18. Canceled.

19. (currently amended) A method to decrease the drip loss from a meat product obtained from a meat-producing animal, comprising the steps of:

providing a feed consisting of 73.5 weight percent dried citrus pulp, 21.5 weight percent Vitamin C, and 5 weight percent molasses;

orally administering ~~Vitamin C~~ said feed one time to said animal ~~between about 2 and~~  
~~about 18~~ 16 hours prior to harvest;

harvesting said animal; and

preparing said meat product from said harvested animal.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said Vitamin C comprises phosphorylated ascorbic acid.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein said phosphorylated ascorbic acid is selected from the group consisting of mono-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, di-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tri-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tetra-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, and mixtures thereof.

22. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a sulfate ester of ascorbic acid.

23. Canceled.

24. Canceled.